

WO-309
Ephraim King Wilson House
Snow Hill
Private

c. 1860

The Ephraim King Wilson house is an architecturally prominent two-and-a-half story cross-shaped dwelling built around 1860 by the Makemie Presbyterian Church as a parsonage. Unusual to most parsonages is the large size of this seven bay frame house. Although the cross shaped appearance of this dwelling is unusual, it is not without precedent in Snow Hill. Built about ten years earlier, the Walter P. Snow house is strikingly similar, although the room dispositions of the two houses vary.

On September 8, 1860, the heirs of Denard Williams, Theodore W. Williams and Rosa F. D. Williams sold part of the Williams estate marked "Division C" to a committee of the Presbyterian church. Seventeen years later, in 1877, the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas designates the corner lot, "Presby. Parsonage." In January 1882 the Presbyterian church sold the parsonage to Ephraim King Wilson (1821-1891), one of the most prominent attorney's and statesmen living in Worcester County at the time. At the settlement of Wilson's estate after his death in 1891, his town property, "...which was the residence property of the late Judge Ephraim K. Wilson up to the time of his death" was sold to Leroy Smith for \$1855. Leroy Smith resided in the large house until the mid twentieth century. After Smith's death in 1953, his widow, Helen, held title to the property until 1961.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: W0-309

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):
SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-309

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE

and/or common LEROY SMITH HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 304 West Federal Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name George and Margaret Thrift

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber WCL 129

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 489

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

postory for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. W0-309

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ephraim King Wilson house is located at 304 West Federal Street in the western residential section of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story cross-shaped frame house, now divided into apartments, faces southeast with the principal gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1860, this large two-and-a-half story cross-shaped house is supported by a low common bond brick foundation, and the house is sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles. Covering the steeply pitched roof is a layer of asphalt shingles.

The southeast elevation is a basically symmetrical facade dominated by a projecting two-story bay pavilion flanked by three-bay wings to each side. The corner of the pavilion, as well as the corners of the house in general, are trimmed with plain pilasters. Highlighting the two-story bay are bracketed eaves, and paneled knee walls trim the wall below the two-over-two sash windows. The gable front above the two-story bay is pierced by a round arched window covered by arched louvered shutters. Marking the east and west sides of the pavilion roof are gabled dormers filled with arched two-over-two sash windows. Piercing the center of the house roof is an interior brick stack topped by a corbelled cap.

The three-bay wings to each side of the center block are defined by side entrances and flanking two-over-two sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The front doors on each side are framed by two-light sidelights and single-pane transoms. Sheltering the first floor on each side is a chamfered post porch trimmed with decorative brackets. The second floor of each side is lighted by two-over-two sash windows, some of which retain louvered shutters. Centered on the roof of each wing is a cross gable pierced with a round arched two-over-two sash window.

The gable ends of each wing are simply treated with two-over-two sash windows lighting each floor, and an interior end brick stack protrudes through the roof.

Attached to the back of the house are a pair of two-story one-room plan wings flanking the rear extension of the center block.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No.

WO-309

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: national state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ephraim King Wilson house is an architecturally prominent two-and-a-half story cross-shaped dwelling built around 1860 by the Makemie Presbyterian Church as a parsonage. Unusual to most parsonages is the large size of this seven bay frame house. Although the cross shaped appearance of this dwelling is unusual, it is not without precedent in Snow Hill. Built about ten years earlier, the Walter P. Snow house is strikingly similar, although the room dispositions of the two houses vary.

On September 8, 1860, the heirs of Denard Williams, Theodore W. Williams and Rosa F. D. Williams sold part of the Williams estate marked "Division C" to a committee of the Presbyterian church. Seventeen years later, in 1877, the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas designates the corner lot, "Presby. Parsonage." In January 1882 the Presbyterian church sold the parsonage to Ephraim King Wilson (1821-1891), one of the most prominent attorney's and statesmen living in Worcester County at the time. At the settlement of Wilson's estate after his death in 1891, his town property, "...which was the residence property of the late Judge Ephraim K. Wilson up to the time of his death" was sold to Leroy Smith for \$1855.(BB 31/232) Leroy Smith resided in the large house until the mid twentieth century. After Smith's death in 1953, his widow, Helen, held title to the property until 1961.(FWH 150/33)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-309

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural historian

organization Private Consultant/Worcester Co. date 2/20/90

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-309
EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE
304 Federal Street
Chain of title

WCL 1291/489

Donald O. Evans and Rosalie S. Evans
et. ux.

to

3/3/1987

George D. Thrift and Margaret M. Thrift
et. ux.

\$70,000 Plat FWH 170/214

FWH 402/184

Edward O. Thomas and Norma C. Thomas
et. ux. also known as Alixandra Thomas

to

6/28/1973

Donald O. Evans and Rosalie S. Evans
et. ux.

FWH 170/215

Kathryn J. Corddry

to

11/12/1963

Edward O. Thomas and Norma G. Thomas
et. ux.

FWH 170/210

Billie R. Laws, Daniel W. Hudson, Jr.,
Edward O. Thomas, and Maurice Peacock

to

11/12/1963

Kathryn J. Corddry

FWH 150/ 33

Helen R. Smith, executor of Will of
Leroy Smith

to

10/13/1961

Billie R. Laws, Daniel W. Hudson, Jr.
Edward O. Thomas

WO-309
EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE
304 Federal Street
Chain of title

Will Book
FEH 24/244
Estate No.
3749

Last will and testament of
Leroy Smith

to

11/5/1953

Helen R. Smith

BB 31/232

Franklin Upshur, Trustee
(Case of Ephraim K. Wilson vs. Mary Wison
White, J. Edward White, and H. Clay
Burbage--Case No. 4694 Chancery Docket)

to

Leroy Smith

\$1855 which was the residence property
of the late Judge Ephraim K. Wilson up
to the time of his death"

ITM 8/594

Committee of the Presbyterian Church

to

1/23/1882

Ephraim K. Wilson
House and lot \$1100

ITM 9/235

Alfred Pinchin and Esther G. Pinchin,
et. ux.

to

9/19/1882

Ephraim K. Wilson
\$28.04 strip of land which lied to the
southwest of a new fence lately erected
by Wilson as a boundary line between
his dwelling lot & the premises aforesaid
of the said Pinchin

WO-309
EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE
304 Federal Street
Chain of title

WET 2/280

Theodore W. Williams and Rosa F. D.
Williams, et. ux.

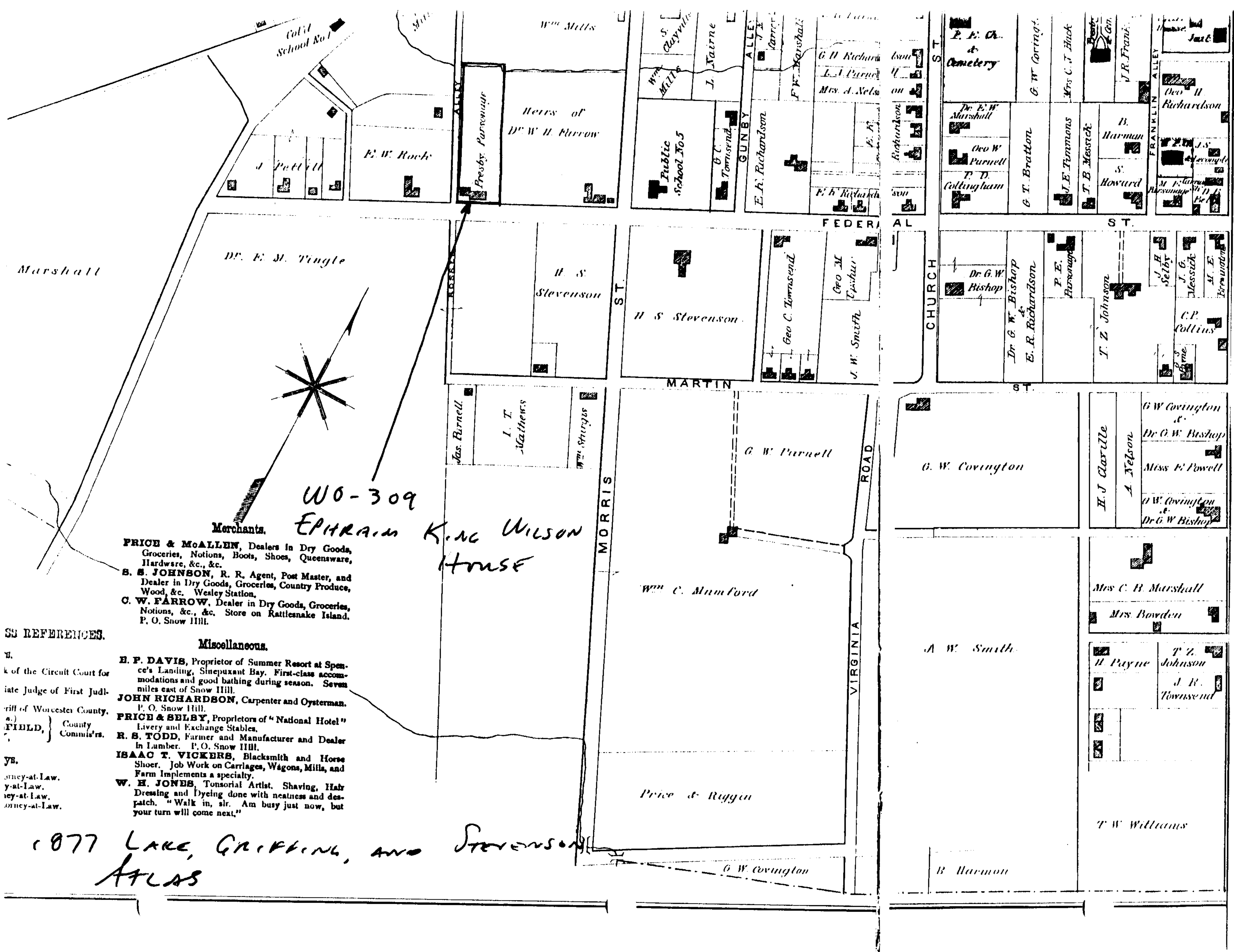
to

9/8/1860

The Committee of the Presbyterian
Church in Snow Hill in Worcester County
\$700 Division C Chancery 7/433 being
a part of the real estate that Theodore
W. Williams one of the heirs at law of
Denard Williams elected to take at the
valuation thereof of the commissioners
appointed by the Circuit Court for
Worcester County to value and divide the
same

1877 LAKE, GRIFFING AND STEVENSON ATLAS

Designation "Presby. Parsonage"



Marshall

Merchants.

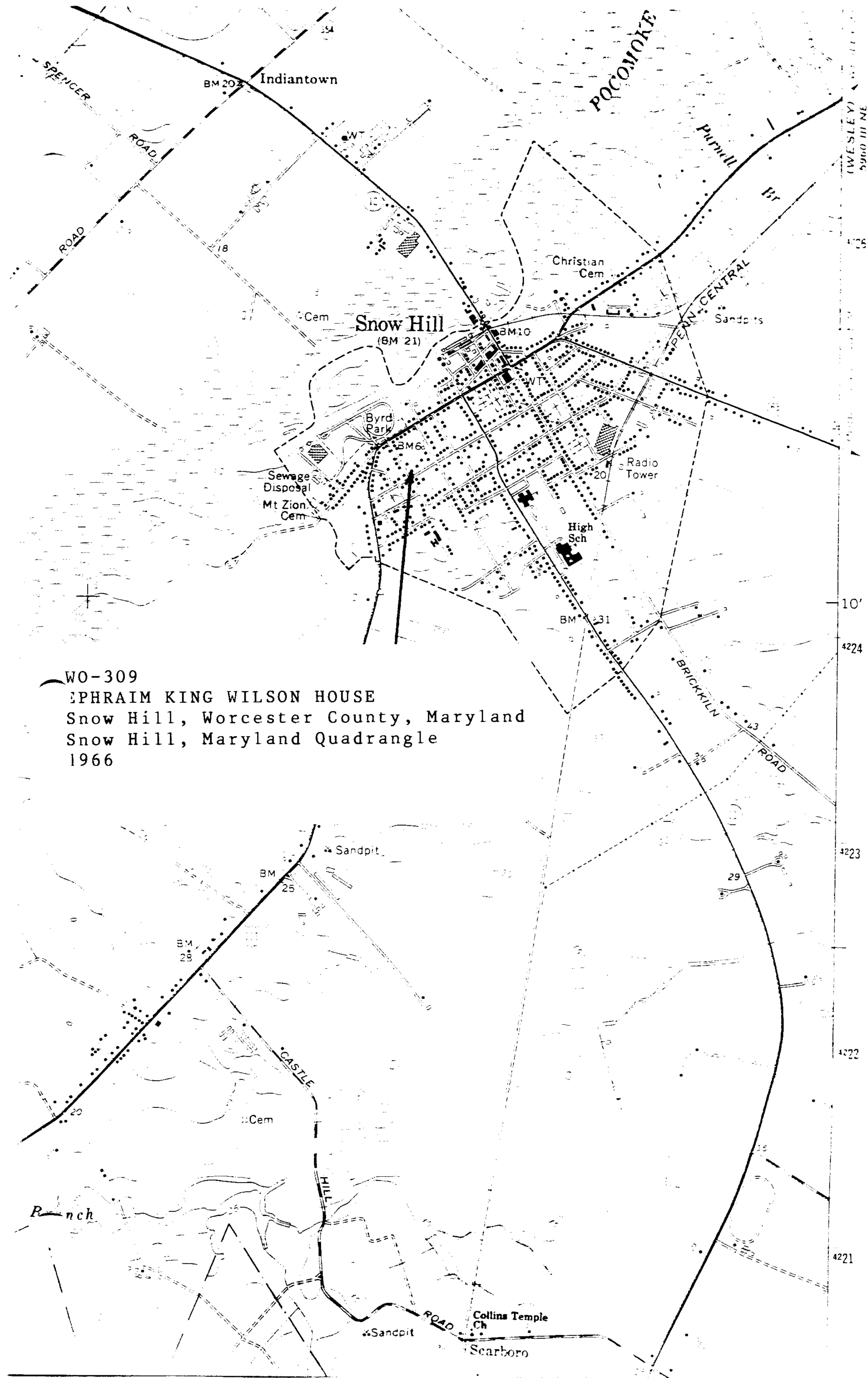
PRICE & McALLEN, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, Boots, Shoes, Queensware, Hardware, &c., &c.
B. S. JOHNSON, R. R. Agent, Post Master, and Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Country Produce, Wood, &c. Wesley Station.
O. W. FARROW, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Notions, &c., &c. Store on Rattlesnake Island. P. O. Snow Hill.

Miscellaneous.

H. P. DAVIS, Proprietor of Summer Resort at Spence's Landing, Sinepuxant Bay. First-class accommodations and good bathing during season. Seven miles east of Snow Hill.
JOHN RICHARDSON, Carpenter and Oysterman. P. O. Snow Hill.
PRICE & SELBY, Proprietors of "National Hotel" Livery and Exchange Stables.
R. B. TODD, Farmer and Manufacturer and Dealer in Lumber. P. O. Snow Hill.
ISAAC T. VICKERS, Blacksmith and Horse Shoer. Job Work on Carriages, Wagons, Mills, and Farm Implements a specialty.
W. H. JONES, Tonsorial Artist. Shaving, Hair Dressing and Dyeing done with neatness and despatch. "Walk in, sir. Am busy just now, but your turn will come next."

SEE REFERENCES.
U.
k of the Circuit Court for
iate Judge of First Jud-
rill of Worcester County.
s.)
FIELD, } County
 } Commis'srs.
YB.
oney-at-Law.
y-at-Law.
ney-at-Law.
oney-at-Law.

077 LAKE, GRIFKING, AND STEVENSON
ATLAS



WO-309

EPHRAIM KING WILSON HOUSE
Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland
Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle
1966